1:Vaillant A-5 (1928-1936)1941 NU7 Aztec NU7

finely graded scale of social eminence. (See Plates 33–36.)

A married man received a plot of land directly from the clan or else took over his father's fields if the latter were too old to work. Diligent husbandry, eked out by making stone tools, pottery or practicing some such craft for barter, could produce a good living. Unmarried men helped their fathers and were able to add to their prestige by taking part in the numerous military campaigns.

Since the capture of victims for sacrifice was the chief glory of war, an able soldier who could subdue his enemies and drag them to the rear received much honor. According to the number of captives taken, a warrior had the right to wear an increasingly elaborate costume. Consistently successful warriors could enter an order, like the Knights of the Eagle or the Ocelot (often referred to as Tiger), which performed special dances and rituals. Sometimes a warrior of unusual prowess received additional grants of land or more often obtained an increased portion of the clan's share of tribute. Having reached an established position by this means, he had a more important voice in clan councils and might attain a seat in the council itself. A special honorific, *tecuhtli* (grandfather), which corresponds to chief among the North American Indians, distinguished these men. The title signified high social, but not official, rank, and from these men who had distinguished themselves by probity, bravery and religious observance, high elective and appointive posts were filled.[a]

In this stratum there were many positions of honor and influence, which, like petty political offices in small North American towns, were held in connection with some other means of livelihood. There were officials who kept order in the markets and tribunals which settled disputes in clan

565 contributed to their natural and legitimate masters in making their
463 houses and cultivating their plots... and they did the same for the
651 lords" (10). Taking into account all that has been said above it is

10. Anunciación, p. 237.

clear that the payment of tribute existed within the same Tenochca group and reflected a difference between two kinds of people, and that there existed a relationship between this stratification and the ward divisions. It also appears from our data that, besides the tribute to the lords, there was a tribute to the rulers [a los "señores"], to the chiefs [a los "caciques"], which is probably to say, to the chiefs of the whole group, not just to the lesser ward lords.

565 It is certain that as a result of the role in the division of labor and
511 of the difference between being tributary and tribute-receiving, great differences in the standard of living in the population came about in Tenochtitlan. The macehuales had "neither furniture, nor clothing other than what they wear on their persons, which is very poor, and one or two stones for grinding maize, and a few pots for cooking and a mat on which they sleep... and they eat little... the common [651] people and the plebians are so tyrannized by their Indian lords that most of them have their rations taxed " (11). On the other hand we

11. Oviedo, III, p. 535. The weakness of the author cited vanishes by reason of its congruence with other authorities.

are told that the lords and rulers were always going to banquets and weddings (12) and that the princes slept in beds (13) and that the

12. López Gerónimo, II, p. 151.

13. Mártin de Anglería, P., p. 470.

[525] rulers had and gambled with "precious stones and jewels and gold and featherwork, slaves, blankets of all sorts, and arms and trappings of war" (14). We have all seen, likewise, the diversity which the

14. Pomar, p. 27. Although the fact refers to Texcoco, it coincides with what is known in less

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categorical assertions such as that of the Codex Alcobiz (Laws which the Indians had) [Leyes que tenian los Indios].

codices show between the clothes and gear of the macehuales those of and the lords and rulers in illustrations of Sahagun, Mendoza, etc. All of these are facts which oblige us to think that there were great differences of richness and well-being within the population of Mexico-Tenochtitlan and that these differences existed between the macehuales and pillis.

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Another aspect which showed the differences between segments of the population was sexual life: "it is said that commoners have only one wife; but the lords can have concubines at their wish" (15), and

15. Mendieta, Eclesiastical History [Historia Eclestiástica], p. 297.

when they married "the noble women brought with them other maid-servants (and with all these women the men had)... much profit for they made them weave and make blankets, and perform other services of this sort" (16).

16. Motolinía, History [Historia], p. 164.

These data show us not only the well-being of the polygamous lords implicit in having a multitude of wives, but also the economic well-being derived from this polygyny, which was beyond the reach of the macehuales.

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However, it seems that this stratification also included groups of people dedicated to occupations other than agriculture since we are told that the merchants also had lords who went about with the heads of the calpullis (17), which makes us think that not all the merchants

17. Zurita, p. 143.

were /p. 26/ lords, and that therefore there obtained among them also the stratification of which we have been speaking. Complementing and clarifying the situation, we know that the merchants and the artisans, although they cultivated their land, did not give tribute by working the fields but in work of their particular occupation